

Production No. 4F03

The Simpsons

"THE HOMER THEY FALL"

Written by

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Created by
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Developed by
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RECORD

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NOTE: FOR RECORD ONLY**"THE HOMER THEY FALL"**

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
MALL ANNOUNCER (V.O.) ...HARRY SHEARER
INDIAN #1.....DAN CASTELLANETA
INDIAN #2.....HANK AZARIA
CROWDALL
COMIC BOOK GUY.....HANK AZARIA
WISE GUY SALESMAN.....HANK AZARIA
MILHOUSE.....PAMELA HAYDEN
MARTIN.....PAMELA HAYDEN
JIMBO.....PAMELA HAYDEN
KEARNEY.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
DOLPH.....PAMELA HAYDEN
MICROCHIP VOICE.....HANK AZARIA
JIMBO'S DAD.....HANK AZARIA
DOLPH'S DAD.....HARRY SHEARER
KEARNEY'S DAD.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MOE.....HANK AZARIA
GRAMPA.....DAN CASTELLANETA
DR. HIBBERT.....HARRY SHEARER

BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
LENNY.....HARRY SHEARER
CARL.....HANK AZARIA
BOXCAR BOB.....HARRY SHEARER
LUCIUS SWEET.....HARRY SHEARER
DREDERICK TATUM.....HANK AZARIA
PRISONERS.....HARRY SHEARER/DAN
.....CASTELLANETA/HANK AZARIA
QUESTIONER #1.....DAN CASTELLANETA
QUESTIONER #2.....HARRY SHEARER
QUESTIONER #3.....HANK AZARIA
PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS....DAN CASTELLANETA/HARRY
.....SHEARER/HANK AZARIA/NANCY
.....CARTWRIGHT
ANNOUNcer (V.O.).....HARRY SHEARER
MICHAEL BUFFER.....HIMSELF
KENT BROCKMAN.....HARRY SHEARER
PROF. (DR.) FRINK.....HANK AZARIA
KRUSTY THE KLOWN.....DAN CASTELLANETA
SPORTSCASTER.....HANK AZARIA
REFEREE.....DAN CASTELLANETA
HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)....DAN CASTELLANETA
DR. NICK RIVIERA.....HANK AZARIA
FAN MAN.....DAN CASTELLANETA

THE HOMER THEY FALL

by

John Collier

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

SCENE 1

ESTABLISHING SHOT - SPRINGFIELD MALL - DAY

INT. SPRINGFIELD MALL - CONTINUOUS

A large CROWD, including the SIMPSONS, is gathered around the mall's center court, where a banner reads "MEMORIES OF 'BONANZA' -- The Mall Show."

MALL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(DRAMATIC) Ladies and gentlemen, the Springfield Mall in conjunction with Nostalgia Licensing Corp. is proud to present... the stars of "Bonanza!"

We hear the **BONANZA THEME** as a huge map of the Ponderosa begins to burn, a la the opening of the show. Two aging ACTORS IN INDIAN COSTUMES step out of the hole in the map and wave to the crowd.

INDIAN #1

Thank you! I just wish Ben and Hoss and Little Joe and Hop-Sing and Sheriff Roy and all your favorites could be alive today to see this wonderful turn-out.

INDIAN #2

You know, on the series, we were always trying to kill the Cartwrights...

CROWD

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(SCATTERED BOOS AND CATCALLS)

INDIAN #2

(BIG JOKE) ...but it looks like Father
Time took care of that for us, right?
Am I right, folks?

He waits for laughter, but there is none from the angry crowd. He anxiously motions offstage, and the **BONANZA THEME** starts up again. The two Indians start dancing lamely.

BART

This sucks!

MARGE

Weren't there three Indians last year?

INT. SPRINGFIELD MALL - A LITTLE LATER

The Simpsons approach a "Sharper Image"-type store called "MISCELLANEOUS, ETC."

HOMER

(EXCITED GASP) Look, Marge! They
opened a new high-tech gadget store!
You love high-tech gadgets!

MARGE

No, I don't.

HOMER

(INSISTENT) Like bull you don't! Come
on!

He excitedly pulls her toward the store.

MARGE

Homer, please, you're hurting my arm!

HOMER

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(CHEERFULLY) No, I'm not!

INT. MISCELLANEOUS, ETC. - CONTINUOUS

The store is cluttered with a lot of junky gizmos in slick displays. Bart is brushing his teeth with a shiny, futuristic device.

BART

Hey, Lis, check out this space age toothbrush.

LISA

That's an electric nostril groomer.

BART

(DISGUSTED SPITTING SOUNDS)

MARGE

Night vision goggles? A bathroom scale from a Soviet sub? A suede briefcase-case? Anyone who needs this kind of status symbol must have some terrible emotional problems...

HOMER

Marge, look! (READING SIGN) "The World's Best Jacket!" If I had this it would show everybody... (SEETHING WITH RAGE) show everybody!

We PULL BACK to see Homer is admiring a garish Eurotrash leather jacket covered with checkered flags, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis, and lots of zippers and fringe. Homer puts it on and admires himself in the mirror.

MARGE

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

It's a beauty, but we can't afford
\$700.

HOMER

(MOAN) How come I can never have the
things I want?

MARGE

(REASSURING) Homer, you've got a good
job, a loving family, and a
windbreaker. That should be enough for
any man.

AT THE COUNTER

Bart stands nearby as a SALESMAN speaks to the COMIC BOOK GUY, who is holding a high-tech belt laden with gadgets.

COMIC BOOK GUY

Yes, I would like to return your quote-unquote "Ultimate Belt."

WISE GUY SALESMAN

(WISE GUY VOICE) Do you have a receipt, quote-unquote "sir"?

COMIC BOOK GUY

No, I do not. I won it as a door prize at the Star Trek Convention. Although I find their choice of prize highly illogical, as the average Trekker has no use for a medium-size belt.

He demonstrates that the belt won't even come close to fitting around his waist.

WISE GUY SALESMAN SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

Whoa! A fat, sarcastic Star Trek fan!
You must be a devil with the ladies. I
hate to let you down, Casanova, but no
receipt, no return.

He walks away, leaving the Comic Book Guy standing there,
speechless. Bart examines the belt.

BART

I'll give you four bucks for it!

COMIC BOOK GUY

(SIGH) Very well. I must hurry back
to my comic book store, where I
dispense the insults rather than absorb
them.

He hands Bart the belt and slinks sadly out of the store.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY SCENE 2

Bart is showing off his utility belt to the NERDY KIDS.

MILHOUSE

Wow! I bet if God wore pants, he'd
have a belt like that!

BART

This isn't a belt, it's a Tactical
Pants-Retaining System. Check it out:
(SHOWING OFF FEATURES) compass,
matches, whistle, saw, panic button,
squirrel snare, radon-slash-lie
detector, sphygmomanometer... and it's
even got turn signals!

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

He indicates switches on the belt marked "LEFT" and "RIGHT". Suddenly, the crowd parts in fear as JIMBO, DOLPH, and KEARNEY approach.

JIMBO

Hey, Simpson, wanna trade belts?

BART

(NERVOUS) Well, not really... 'cause yours is just a piece of extension cord...

KEARNEY

(TO JIMBO) Hey, dude, he's raggin' on your cord!

JIMBO/DOLPH/KEARNEY

Get him!!

The bullies lunge for Bart, but he slips away and charges off down the hall.

DOWN THE NEXT HALLWAY

Bart approaches an intersection. The bullies are closing in.

BART

(PANTING) Time for a little evasive action...

He flicks the "LEFT" switch on his belt, activating the left turn signal.

JIMBO

Hey, he's turnin' left!

Bart then runs off to the right. The bullies run left, then look around in confusion.

IN A NEARBY ALCOVE

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

A desperate Bart crouches down and presses a red button on the belt marked "HELP."

MICROCHIP VOICE

Help. Help. Help. (ETC.)

He tries frantically to shut off the voice, but can't. Then he looks up to see the bullies smiling down at him with menacing grins.

BART

(GRIMLY DETERMINED) I was hoping it
wouldn't come to this, but you guys
asked for it...

With great drama, Bart pushes a button labelled "EMERGENCY USE ONLY." A projectile shoots out into the air. It then unfurls into a tiny parachute that dangles a day-glo sign reading "CALL POLICE - ASSISTANCE NEEDED." As everyone watches, it flutters weakly to the ground.

BART (CONT'D)

(BEAT) (DESPERATE) Can't you read?
Call the police!

The bullies close in on Bart, and we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - THAT EVENING

Homer sits at the kitchen table. Bart enters, bruised, with a black eye and torn shirt.

BART

Hey, Dad.

HOMER

Lookin' good, son. (THEN, CONCERNED:) Hey, what happened to your belt?

BART

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

Some bullies beat me up and took it.

HOMER

Son, there's only one thing punks like that understand: squealing. You've got to squeal to every teacher and grown-up you can find. Coming to me was a good start.

BART

But then they'll just beat me up even worse.

HOMER

(THOUGHTFULLY) Yesss, they're a clever bunch. (BEAT) I know, I'll squeal for you. To their parents.

BART

Dad, please don't.

HOMER

(PATTING BART'S HEAD) There, there. You just let me take care of this. Daddy knows everything.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXTREME CLOSE-UP - SOMEWHERE

A fist **SLAMS** into Homer's face. Then another. Then another. We WIDEN TO REVEAL we're...

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - THAT NIGHT

SCENE 3

Homer is being beaten by the FATHERS of Jimbo, Dolph, and Kearney, who all look and sound like larger, more menacing versions of their sons. Homer remains surprisingly steady despite the blows.

JIMBO'S DAD

That's for tellin' me how to raise my
lousy kid!

DOLPH'S DAD

And this is for the crummy life I've
had to live! (THROWS ANOTHER PUNCH)

HOMER

(STILL REASONABLE) The thing is --
oof! -- Bart really loves that belt and
-- ugh!

Kearney's Dad creeps up behind Homer with a pool cue and CRACKS it over his head. Homer remains standing.

KEARNEY'S DAD

Somethin's wrong with this guy! He's
not fallin' down!

Offscreen, we hear the RACKING OF A SHOTGUN. Everyone turns to see MOE standing in a rear doorway, leveling his gun at the thugs.

MOE

Fun's over, fellas. If you're gonna
beat up my friend in my bar, there's a
two-drink minimum.

The tough dads back nervously out of the bar.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - A LITTLE LATER

Moe is disinfecting Homer with gin and applying bandages from his first aid kit.

MOE

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

Jeez, Homer, I never seen a guy stand up to that kinda punishment -- you took a three-man poundin' and you didn't fall down.

HOMER

(GLUM) Big deal. I didn't even get my kid's belt back. The only thing a loser like me is good for is taking beatings.

MOE

(EXCITED) That's the spirit! Homer, I seen prizefighters couldn't take a punch half as good as you! And those guys were winners... or very rich losers.

HOMER

(PERKING UP) Really?

MOE

Oh, it's the good life, Homer. Some of these boxers eat steak and lobster and salad bar all in a single meal!

HOMER

(GASP OF AWE) Dressing?

MOE

Their choice. (DRAMATIC) Homer, if you were a boxer, it could be yours.

HOMER

SCENE 3 (CONT'D)

You really think I could do it?

MOE

Well, are you man enough to test every
one of your limits?

HOMER

Yes!

MOE

And are you man enough to throw a
punch, should the opportunity arise?

HOMER

Yes!

MOE

("THE CLINCHER") And are you man
enough to give me a sixty percent cut?

HOMER

YES!!

MOE

I'll take it!!

HOMER

Woo hoo!

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

SCENE 4

ESTABLISHING SHOT - MOE'S TAVERN - THAT NIGHT

MOE (O.S.)

Now if I'm gonna manage your boxing career, Homer, you gotta have complete faith in me. Lemme show ya somethin'...

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Moe flips on the light switch as he and Homer enter a door marked "LADIES."

HOMER

Wow! I've never been in here before!

MOE

Yeah, well, when I realized we hadn't had no ladies here since 1979, I started usin' it as an office.

He flops down the toilet seat lid and sits down behind a desk. Homer turns around to see the room is filled with boxing memorabilia: gloves, trophies, and faded posters -- all featuring Moe.

HOMER

You used to be a boxer just like me?

MOE

Yeah. They called me "Kid Gorgeous."

Later on, it was "Kid Presentable."

Then "Kid Gruesome." And finally, "Kid Moe."

HOMER

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

(NOTICING SOMETHING) Hey, what's this?

MOE

That's my old spit bucket.

Homer picks up the old rusty bucket. We hear a **SLOSHING** sound.

MOE (CONT'D)

I been meanin' to empty that out.

Homer then notices a photo of Moe with his arm around a flashily-dressed, high-haired, Don King-style fight promoter.

HOMER

(GASP) You know Lucius Sweet? He's
one of the biggest names in boxing!
He's exactly as rich and famous as Don
King, and he looks just like him, too.

MOE

Yeah, he was my manager. Back when I
was gorgeous, everyone wanted a piece
of me. But somehow I never made it to
the big time.

HOMER

Why not?

MOE

I got knocked out forty times in a row.
Plus, it's all politics...

HOMER

(IN BITTER AGREEMENT) Lousy Democrats.

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT MORNING

The family, including GRAMPA, is eating breakfast.

MARGE

(EXASPERATED MURMUR) Homer, of all the crazy ideas you've had, this one ranks somewhere in the middle. I don't think you were meant to be a prizefighter..

GRAMPA

Sure he was! Boxing is the destiny of all Simpson men. That's 'cause you can't knock us off our feet. Looky here.

Grampa takes out a scrapbook.

LISA

Do you carry that scrapbook everywhere, Grampa?

GRAMPA

Most places, yep.

He opens the book to etchings and daguerreotypes of other boxing Simpsons.

GRAMPA (CONT'D)

There's Silas Simpson, the legendary "Boxing Oaf of Northumberland." And Gentleman Jim Simpson, went 214 rounds without gettin' his derby scuffed. And here's Abraham Simpson, I'm not familiar with him...

BART

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

That's you, Grampa.

GRAMPA

Oh, yes. I was known as "The
Piledriver," on account of a medical
condition I'd rather keep private.

Here's a photo of me fighting the great
Jack Dempsey.

Grampa displays a photo of a man boxing a kangaroo.

LISA

Grampa, that's a kangaroo.

GRAMPA

No, that's me. I'm wearin' a kangaroo
suit.

HOMER

See, Marge. That could be me!

MARGE

Homer, you're 38 years old, you don't
know how to box, and you haven't gotten
any exercise since grade school.

Before you even consider this, I insist
you consult a doctor.

HOMER

No problemo!

Homer dashes out of the room.

MARGE

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

(CALLING AFTER HIM) A competent
doctor!

HOMER (O.S.)

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. DR. HIBBERT'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

SCENE 5

Homer's sitting on the examination table in his underwear
as Marge looks on.

DR. HIBBERT

You more than meet every one of this
state's requirements to box, wrestle,
or be shot out of a cannon.

MARGE

(ANNOYED MURMUR) That's what we get
for living in a state founded by circus
freaks.

Hibbert **FLICKS** a switch, illuminating an x-ray of Homer's
skull, and uses a pointer to indicate a layer of fluid
around his brain.

DR. HIBBERT

You have an absolutely unique genetic
condition known as "Homer Simpson's
Syndrome."

HOMER

(DISTRAUGHT) Oh, why me?

DR. HIBBERT

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

Don't worry, it's quite beneficial.

Your brain is cushioned by a layer of fluid one eighth of an inch thicker than normal. It's like you're wearing a football helmet inside your head.

Hibbert **TEARS** open a long paper wrapper and takes out a piece of lumber.

DR. HIBBERT (CONT'D)

Why, I could wallop you all day with this surgical two-by-four without ever knocking you down. (LOOKS AT WATCH)
But I have other appointments.

INT. SPRINGFIELD GYM - DAY

It's an old-fashioned boxing gym. Homer and Moe are working out in the ring.

MOE

Okay, let's see the left.

Moe holds up a practice pad. A **BUZZING FLY** lands on it. Homer **GRUNTS**, winds up, and punches the mitt weakly. As he withdraws his glove, the fly buzzes off, unharmed.

MOE (CONT'D)

(DISMAYED) Oooo-kay... Let's see your right.

Moe looks over to see Homer leaning against the ropes, exhausted.

HOMER

(WEARY PANTING)

MOE

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

Well, punching isn't your thing. But that's okay... you're not that kind of fighter. What you're gonna do is stand still while your opponent gets exhausted from overpunching.

HOMER

Then I can just push him over.

MOE

Yeah, and if the ref's not looking, you kick him a couple times.

EXT. BACK ROADS - EARLY MORNING

Homer's in a hooded sweat suit, jogging very slowly. Moe drives alongside in an open-topped roadster.

HOMER

Who's gonna knock you down?

HOMER

No one.

MOE

When are you gonna fight back?

HOMER

Never.

MOE

What are you gonna do?

HOMER

Nothing.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

Homer is suspended from the ceiling by a rope looped under his armpits. Bart and Lisa enthusiastically pound him like a human punching bag.

BART

Hey, Lis, try and bruise your initials
into his skin.

LISA

Okay. You work the kidneys.

HOMER

(GIGGLES)

Marge runs in and tries to swat the kids away with a broom.

MARGE

Have you kids gone insane?! Scat!

Scat!

BART

Mo-om! Moe's paying us twenty-five
cents an hour to do this. We're
helping Dad train for his first fight.

MARGE

Well, I'll pay you thirty cents an hour
to sit quietly and watch TV.

BART/LISA/HOMER

Deal.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

A boxing ring has been set up in the bar. A SCRAGGLY CROWD
is milling about.

BARNEY

SCENE 5 (CONT'D)

Man, you'd never get me into a ring.

Boxing causes brain damage!

He takes a **LARGE SWIG** from a can marked "VARNISH".

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - BACK ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS SCENE 6

Homer is in his robe. Moe is massaging his shoulders.

MOE

You're fighting a guy named Boxcar Bob.

HOMER

Brawled his way up from the boxcars,

did he?

MOE

Not yet. He still lives at the train

yard. But he's a hungry young fighter.

In fact, he's fighting for a sandwich.

Moe takes an old pair of boxing gloves off the wall and blows the dust off them. He hands them to Homer.

MOE (CONT'D)

Homer, I want you to have my lucky
mitts. I hope you do better with 'em
than I did.

HOMER

(TOUCHED) Gee, thanks, Moe... What's
this?

Homer notices a piece of barbed wire wrapped around the
glove's knuckles.

MOE

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

Oh, the barbed wire. We called that "The Stinger." They don't let you use that no more.

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Homer is in his corner. Moe leans over the ropes.

MOE

Now, no matter how much he hits you,
you don't do nothin'. You don't wanna
get drawn into a boxing match here.

In the opposite corner, BOXCAR BOB takes off his overcoat, revealing patched boxing trunks. He carefully places his bindle in a neutral corner. The bell RINGS, and the fight starts. Boxcar Bob comes out swinging; Homer, unfazed, just stands there and takes it.

BART

Way to go, Dad! Take those punches!

LENNY

Man, that tramp's got the energy of a hobo!

CARL

Yeah, he never stops punching... 'cept to check on his bindle.

We see Bob unleashing a flurry of blows on Homer, stopping only to make sure no one is stealing his bindle.

DISSOLVE TO:

THREE ROUNDS LATER

MOE

He's tired, Homer! Now's your chance!
Nudge him! Nudge him!

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

Bob, PANTING WITH EXHAUSTION, can barely lift his gloves as he struggles to swat at Homer. Homer reaches out and pushes Bob softly in the chest, causing him to topple over and collapse. Moe leaps into the ring and raises Homer's fist in victory.

CROWD

(CHEERS)

HOMER

(RAISING ARMS) Thank you, thank you!

Boxcar Bob pulls himself up and tugs on Moe's leg.

BOXCAR BOB

Do I get my sandwich now?

Moe pulls a sandwich from his back pocket.

MOE

Eat it outside.

EXT. MOE'S TAVERN - A LITTLE LATER

Homer and Bart climb into the car, where Marge is waiting.

MARGE

Oh, Homie, I couldn't watch. Are you okay?

HOMER

(EXCITED) Who cares if I'm okay? I just got paid!

He proudly displays a large wad of cash.

BART

You shoulda seen it, Mom! People were cheering for Dad and everything!

HOMER

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

Yeah! It was just like that time I
 dropped my tray in the high school
 cafeteria.

MARGE

(BEAT) But without the sarcasm?

HOMER

(NODS PROUDLY) Yes.

They drive off. In the background, we see Boxcar Bob putting a chalk mark on the wall of the bar. Moe sticks his head out the door.

MOE

Hey, hey! What are you doing?

BOXCAR BOB

Us hobos leave a mark on the wall when
 a place is nice to us.

MOE

Get outta here!!

MONTAGE:

1. CLOSE-UP - RANKING BOARD

Homer's name goes up on a board ranking the "Association of Springfield Semi-pro Boxers (ASSBOX)."

2. A white on black title card (a la "Raging Bull") announces "Simpson vs. Boxcar Fred: Springfield, November 3."

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

BOXCAR FRED, an exhausted hobo, has his arms draped over Homer in a weak clinch. Moe gives a hand signal; Homer steps daintily aside, causing Fred to topple to the canvas, unconscious. The crowd **CHEERS**.

3. INT. MOE'S TAVERN - LATER

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

Moe pays Homer with a thick wad of bills and some change.

4. INT. CAR WASH - DAY

We see Homer's car getting a "Premium Wash." (The sign flashes and **DINGS**.) Homer, with a cigar and Hawaiian shirt, looks on with a self-satisfied grin.

5. CLOSE-UP - RANKING BOARD

A hand moves Homer's name up to number six on the ranking board, between Boxcar Fritz and Boxcar Ira. (**ANIMATORS' NOTE:** Superimposed over the board, we see the shadow of two gloves pounding a speed bag.)

6. EXT. MOE'S TAVERN - NIGHT

We see that there are now dozens of chalk marks outside Moe's. A TRAMP adds another one; Moe shoos him away.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY SCENE 7

Homer walks in wearing the fancy Eurotrash leather jacket. The family looks on, impressed.

BART

Wow, dad! That jacket rules!

GRAMPA

I'm proud of you, son.

HOMER

(MOVED) Dad, you've never said that before.

GRAMPA

Well, you never beat up a bunch of boxcar tramps before.

HOMER

(TOUCHED SIGH)

RESUME MONTAGE:

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

7. We INTERCUT shots of VARIOUS HOBOS collapsing, falling out of the ring, etc., with flashing car wash signs that read "SUPER PREMIUM WASH," "ULTRA DELUXE WASH," and "MEGA TYCOON WASH."

8. CLOSE-UP - RANKING BOARD

Homer's name moves into the number one position, right above Switchyard Sullivan.

INT. PIMENTO GROVE RESTAURANT - EVENING

Homer and Marge are enjoying an elegant candlelit dinner.

MARGE

I am enjoying the dinner, Homey, but...
every bite of this knuckle sandwich
reminds me of how you got the money to
pay for it.

Marge bites into her sandwich with a CRUNCH.

HOMER

Why don't you just eat the black-eyed
peas, or the battered shrimp?

MARGE

It's just that I worry about you.
Boxing isn't tiddlywinks. And remember
how badly you got hurt playing
tiddlywinks?

HOMER

Relax, honey. Moe's looking out for
me. After all, who drove me to the
hospital when Moe sold me that bad
liquor?

MARGE

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

A taxi!

HOMER

And who called the taxi?

MARGE

Barney!

HOMER

From whose bar...?

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - OFFICE - LATER

Moe is seated at his desk. He reaches up to a white metal dispenser labelled "For Your Courtesy" on the wall and turns a knob. A cigar pops out. He bites the end and picks up a match. As he's poised to strike, a gold lighter comes into frame and lights it for him.

MOE'S P.O.V.

We FOLLOW his eyes up a ring-covered hand, a chain-covered wrist, a pendant-covered neck, to the face of a smiling LUCIUS SWEET, then past the face and up his Don King-style hair. Then we PAN BACK DOWN to his face.

LUCIUS

Hello, Moe. Delightful to see you
again.

MOE

(AWED) Lucius! What's a glitterati
like you doin' in my dump? I thought
you were managing the Champ.

Moe gestures to a boxing magazine featuring a cover photo of heavyweight champion Drederick Tatum, a Mike Tyson lookalike. The caption reads "Drederick Tatum: Why Such Rage?"

LUCIUS

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

Yes, managing Drederick has been my highest priority, even though he is temporarily incarcerated for pushing his mother down the stairs. But with his impending release, I've been strategizing for his glorious return to the shores of fistiana.

MOE

Huh?

LUCIUS

(BEAT) His comeback fight. You know, boxing.

MOE

Oh, man. Who's donatin' his body for that one?

LUCIUS

Well, word is you manage a stalwart young pugilist who cannot be knocked down.

MOE

(INCREDOULOUS) Homer? You want Homer to fight Tatum?

LUCIUS

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

The fans are weary of fights that are over before they have an opportunity to get drunk. I just need a body who can sustain verticality for three rounds.

MOE

But Homer's no boxer, he's just a freak. Tatum'll fustigate him!

LUCIUS

Fustigation aside, Moe, you've got a choice: you can either sit here in the ladies room with your faded memories, or you can take your last shot at the big time. (DRAMATIC) I can make it happen.

He **RATTLES** his gold chains enticingly. Moe's eyes are transfixed.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

Three rounds, that's all I ask.

Lucius puts on his crown and exits. Moe slumps at the desk, torn.

EXT. MOE'S TAVERN - ROOFTOP - LATER THAT NIGHT SCENE 8

Moe and Homer are relaxing on some ratty beach chairs, sipping beers and gazing at the night sky.

MOE

I gotta be honest with ya, Homer. I didn't bring you up here to show you my new tar-paper.

HOMER

SCENE 8 (CONT'D)

(NAIVELY) You... didn't?

MOE

How would you like to be the
Heavyweight Champion of the World?

HOMER

Sure.

MOE

Great. All you gotta do is fight
Drederick Tatum. It's this Saturday.
Here's your parking pass.

Homer admires the parking pass.

HOMER

(IMPRESSED) Ooh, "General!" (BEAT)
Who's Drederick Tatum, anyway? Is he
another hobo?

MOE

(EVASIVE) You know, I'll have to check
on that...

HOMER

Well, I trust you, Moe. If you say I
can beat this guy, then he doesn't
stand a chance.

Homer **NOISILY SWIGS** down the last of his beer. We PAN
ACROSS the roof to the building right behind Moe's: the
Springfield Penitentiary.

SCENE 8 (CONT'D)

INT. SPRINGFIELD PENITENTIARY - THAT MOMENT

DREDERICK TATUM sits in his cell, calmly eating a bowl of Jello. Just outside, we see a prison riot raging: flaming mattresses, PRISONERS running amok and SHOUTING, etc.

TATUM

(MIKE TYSON VOICE) (QUIETLY) Hey, shut up!

Immediately, the riot comes to a complete halt. The prisoners tip-toe away, and we hear their cell doors CLOSE SOFTLY.

PRISONERS

(WHISPERS) Sorry, Champ. / We'll keep it down. / Sorry.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

SCENE 9

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Drederick Tatum and Lucius Sweet are sitting at a table, fielding questions from ONLOOKERS.

QUESTIONER #1

Champ! Champ! Do you feel remorse for your crime?

TATUM

Believe me, my God, if I could turn back the clock on my mother's stair pushing, I'd certainly consider it.

QUESTIONER #2

Drederick, what do you think of Homer Simpson?

TATUM

He's a good man, I got nothing against him. But I'm gonna make orphans of his children.

QUESTIONER #3

Uh, they do have a mother, Champ...

TATUM

I imagine she'll die of grief.

More hands go up, and the crowd AD LIBS attempts to get Tatum's attention.

LUCIUS

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

Thank you, but the Champ has no time
for further queries. This parole
hearing is over.

We WIDEN TO REVEAL that they are in a prison room with
barred windows, being questioned by the PAROLE BOARD.

PAROLE BOARD MEMBERS

(AD LIB DISAPPOINTMENT)

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The family is eating breakfast. Marge looks quizzically at
a newspaper headline which reads "CHAMP TO WHALE ON LOCAL
MAN."

MARGE

Homer, why are they saying you're going
to fight Drederick Tatum?

HOMER

(COVERING) Well... I was going to
surprise you, but... happy anniversary,
baby!

MARGE

Have you lost your mind?!

HOMER

C'mon, I'll make a fortune for one
night's work! We could have the things
we always dreamed of: a snooty butler,
carpeted car ports, those blue cupcakes
they sell sometimes --

MARGE

But you'll get killed!

HOMER

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(IMPATIENT) Marge, will you let me finish? ...Plug-in room deodorizers, front and rear spoilers for the car --

LISA

Mom's right, Dad. The odds against you winning are a thousand to one.

HOMER

Oh, I don't think it's that unlikely.

LISA

(CONSULTS NEWSPAPER) Those are the odds they're giving in Vegas.

HOMER

(BEAT) (SOURLY) All right, I think we've heard just about enough from Mr. Newspaper today.

He throws the newspaper out the window, then sits down and resumes eating as he eyes the family angrily.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - TV ROOM - DAY

Bart, Grampa, and Maggie are watching TV.

ON TV

A shot of Tatum behind prison bars looking enraged. The cell door slides open, and he strides ominously toward the camera.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Society put Drederick Tatum away for his brutal crime. But he's paid his debt, and now he's going to get revenge... on Homer Simpson.

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

A graphic of Homer's head appears. Then a boxing glove smashes into it, causing both to **EXPLODE**. The pieces recombine to spell out "Tatum vs. Simpson: PAYBACK."

BART & GRAMPA

(IMPRESSED CHEERS)

GRAMPA

(TO MAGGIE) (BABY TALK) That's your
dad-dy!

EXT. SPRINGFIELD CIVIC CENTER - NIGHT

The immense domed arena is lit up for the big fight. VENDORS **HAWK** souvenir T-shirts as SPECTATORS pour in. A sign reads: "CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING. Tasteful attire prohibited."

INT. CIVIC CENTER - TATUM'S LOCKER ROOM - SAME TIME

Tatum is relaxing on a training table. Lucius Sweet enters.

LUCIUS

How you feeling there, Champ? Not too overconfident, I hope.

TATUM

No, just overconfident enough. A good level.

LUCIUS

And I notice you're getting a big, painful tattoo right before the fight.

We WIDEN TO REVEAL a TATTOO ARTIST working on Tatum's arm with a **BUZZING** tattoo needle.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

(CHEERFUL LAUGH) Well, that's fantabulous. God bless America.

SCENE 10

INT. CIVIC CENTER - HOMER'S LOCKER ROOM - SAME TIME

Homer sits on the training table as Bart tapes up his fists.

BART

You'll be okay, dad. Just make sure he hits you an even number of times so you don't end up with amnesia.

OUTSIDE IN THE HALL

Moe is chain-smoking and looking anguished. Marge approaches. (In the background, we see a sign reading: LOST ENTOURAGE MEMBERS REPORT TO ROOM 31.)

MARGE

Moe, I'm so glad I found you. Please promise me you won't let Homer get hurt.

MOE

(DEFENSIVE) Hey, hey, hey! I'm not the villain here! If Homer gets killed in the ring tonight, it'll be because of your negative attitude! There, I said it.

MARGE

(FIRMLY) Listen to me. The instant that Homer's in any kind of danger, I want you to throw in this towel and stop the fight.

She indicates a towel draped around his neck.

MOE

SCENE 10 (CONT'D)

All right, all right! I promise!

MARGE

(SIGH OF RELIEF) Thank you.

Marge exits. Moe wrestles with his conscience for a moment, then decisively heaves the towel. It floats in a SLOW-MOTION ARC and lands in a trash can with a RESOUNDING CRASH.

MUSIC: OMINOUS STING

INT. CIVIC CENTER - ARENA - A FEW MINUTES LATER

A spotlight highlights CELEBRITIES at ringside as they're introduced to the CROWD by fight announcer MICHAEL BUFFER.

MICHAEL BUFFER

Celebrities at ringside tonight: star of the "McBain" action films and featured player in the Hollywood prostitution scandal, Rainier Wolfcastle; TV anchorman and Springfield institution, Kent Brockman.

The crowd BOOS and throws cups at Brockman.

KENT BROCKMAN

(TO CROWD) This just in: go to hell!

MICHAEL BUFFER

From the world of organized crime, say hello to Anthony "Fat Tony" D'Amico.

"FAT TONY" playfully mimes shooting a finger pistol at the announcer.

SCENE 10 (CONT'D)
MICHAEL BUFFER (CONT'D)

Fresh from his Nobel Prize, Professor
John Frink...

PROF. FRINK

(HUMBLE, THRILLED, FRINK NOISE)

MICHAEL BUFFER

... and ruiner of events worldwide:
title fights, the Super Bowl, and the
Nixon Funeral, ladies and gentlemen --
The Fan Man.

SFX: PROPELLER

The FAN MAN swoops down in his flying fan contraption and lands in an empty seat. On the way, his fan slices off a side of Krusty's hair.

KRUSTY

Aw, cripes. Now I gotta comb this one
over. (COMBS OVER OTHER SIDE)

INT. CIVIC CENTER - ARENA ENTRANCEWAY - THAT MINUTE

Homer and Moe peer out at the capacity crowd.

MOE

All right, buddy, I'm not going to lie
to you: there's a good chance you can
beat Tatum. But you gotta visualize
how you're going to win.

HOMER

Gotcha.

HOMER'S VISUALIZATION

SCENE 10 (CONT'D)

Homer's fist is being raised in victory for a **CHEERING CROWD**.

SPORTSCASTER

A congenital heart defect has apparently felled Tatum, moments before he could step in the ring.

BACK IN THE RING

MICHAEL BUFFER

And now, please welcome back into decent society... Heavyweight Champion of the World, Drederick Tatum!

CROWD

(HUGE APPLAUSE)

The lights dim. A spotlight hits the entrance from Tatum's locker room. The Champ enters, wearing a robe that says "Mr. Armageddon." He's surrounded by a large entourage of mean-looking guys. **GANGSTA RAP BLASTS** as he heads into the ring.

MICHAEL BUFFER

And to challenge the irresistible force of Tatum, we have "The Immovable Object!" He's been called "The Brick Hithouse" and is also known as "The Southern Dandy" -- Ho-mer Simp-son!

Homer and his entourage, which consists of Moe and Grampa, come down to the ring. His robe reads "OPPONENT."

MUSIC: "WHY CAN'T WE BE FRIENDS"

As Homer climbs into the ring, Lucius approaches Moe.

LUCIUS

SCENE 10 (CONT'D)

Your boy looks a little soft, Moe.

Remember our arrangement.

MOE

You'll get your three rounds!

LUCIUS

Stupendous. Because if he goes down before that bell rings, your future's going with him.

MOE

(MATTER-OF-FACT) Okey-doke, future down the crapper. Gotcha.

MICHAEL BUFFER

Due to popular demand, we will forgo our national anthem. And now, LET'S GET READY TO RUM-BLE!!!

The bell RINGS, and Homer finds himself facing Tatum in the ring.

HOMER

(TO HIMSELF) Okay, Homer, nothing to be worried ab--

BOOOOOM!! He's interrupted by a **THUNDEROUS PUNCH**, louder and a lot scarier than anything we've heard before. The spectators recoil in surprise.

CROWD

(SHOCKED NOISES)

IN THE STANDS

SCENE 11

The family is in the worst possible seats, up near the rafters. Marge is sitting behind a pillar.

BART

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

Wow! I've never seen Dad hit somebody
like that before!

LISA

What are you talking about?

BART

Isn't Dad the one in the white trunks?

LISA

No.

BART

Uh-oh.

MARGE

(TRYING TO SEE) What? What?! What am
I missing?

IN THE RING

Homer, still standing firm, looks dazed and unhappy as Tatum connects with a series of showboaty, razzle-dazzle PUNCHES.

MICHAEL BUFFER (V.O.)

... Tatum showboating for the crowd...

IN HOMER'S CORNER

Moe looks at the fight clock to see that only six seconds have passed.

MOE

(QUEASILY) Jeez, only six seconds
in... (YELLS) Attaboy, Homer! Keep
dancin'!

IN THE RING**SCENE 11 (CONT'D)**

Homer stands in a stupor in the middle of the ring. Tatum is leaning out of the ropes, ignoring him.

MICHAEL BUFFER (V.O.)

Showing utter disdain for his opponent's abilities, Tatum is taking a short mid-round breather to converse with actor Charlie Sheen.

The REFEREE moves his body between Tatum and Sheen.

REFEREE

Okay, break it up. Break it up, you two.

Tatum, irritated by this, resumes jabbing Homer with increased ferocity.

IN THE STANDS

Marge is trying to push her way to the ring, but is slowed by the frenzied crowd.

MARGE

(CALLING, PANICKED) Homer! Homer,
he's not going to get tired! You've
got to hit him back! Hit him back!

IN THE RING

Through his daze, Homer sees Marge calling to him.

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

(SLIGHTLY SLURRED) That cactus is right. (RALLYING, HEAD CLEARING) I've only got one chance. I've got to knock him out.

MUSIC: DRAMATIC SWELL

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

IN SLOW MOTION

A determined look comes over Homer. The CAMERA FOLLOWS his fist as it barrels up towards Tatum's face... then sails right past it, missing by more than a foot. Then, Tatum lands a tremendous lowercut onto the top of Homer's head.

HOMER

(LONG, DISTORTED ANNOYED GRUNT)

BACK IN REAL TIME - IN HOMER'S CORNER

MOE

Hang in there, Homer! Only 440 more seconds! (TURNS TO GRAMPA, MATTER-OF-FACT) He's getting his second wind.

GRAMPA

No, he's getting killed! He's gonna die on his feet!

Moe turns away and drops his head in his hands.

MOE

I can't watch this. (BEAT) I gotta get out of here!

He jumps down from the canvas and disappears into the crowd.

IN THE STANDS

We INTERCUT the bloodthirsty faces of spectators: Krusty, Prof. Frink, PATTY and SELMA, MR. BURNS, Lucius Sweet, and Kent Brockman, who's still being hit by cups. Then we see Marge, who's still trying to push her way through the crowd.

MARGE

(CALLING) Somebody stop the fight!

Where's the doctor?!

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

At the officials' table, we see a charged-up DR. NICK RIVIERA furiously shadow-boxing along with Tatum.

DR. NICK

Kill him! Kill him!

IN THE RING

A look of grim determination settles over Tatum as he draws back for a devastating blow.

MICHAEL BUFFER (V.O.)

Looks like it's all over. Tatum wants
to finish this with one punch. And
here it comes...

HOMER'S P.O.V.

The sound drops out. All we hear is **HOMER'S HEARTBEAT** and **BREATHING** as Tatum's fist flies towards his face in SLOW MOTION. We see QUICK CUTS of Marge, Lisa, Bart, and Grampa looking on in terror. Then, all of a sudden...

SFX: WHIRRING FAN NOISE

Just as the punch is about to connect, Homer is plucked from the ring by an airborne Moe, who has strapped himself into the Fan Man's contraption. They fly over the amazed audience and soar gracefully towards an opening in the domed roof.

MICHAEL BUFFER (V.O.)

Oh, my God! Simpson's manager has
flown into the ring and is airlifting
him out! Whatever dignity remained in
boxing is literally flying out the
window!

As they drift higher, Homer looks up at Moe dreamily.

HOMER

(GROGGY) Are you an angel?

MOE

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

Yeah, Homer, all angels wear Farah
slacks.

HOMER

But you stopped the fight. Won't
everyone be mad at you?

MOE

Let 'em be mad. The only thing that
matters to me is, you're safe.

Homer's head **SMACKS** against a girder as Moe maneuvers them
through the top of the arena.

SCENE 12

EXT. CIVIC CENTER - PARKING LOT - NIGHT - SECONDS LATER

Moe and Homer touch down on the tarmac. A crowd circles
them. Tatum appears at Homer's side.

TATUM

Your manager obviously loves you very
much. (TURNS TO LUCIUS) Would you do
that for me?

LUCIUS

Absolutely I would. Now get in the
van.

Lucius turns to Moe, furious.

LUCIUS (CONT'D)

You couldn't even give me one lousy
round, Moe! You will always be a
loser! Now take your check for a
hundred thousand dollars and get out of
my sight.

Lucius hands Moe a check.

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MOE

I don't need your stinkin' money!

Moe carefully folds the check and places it in his shirt pocket. Marge and the kids run up and hug Homer.

MARGE

Oh, Homie, are you okay?

LISA

His pupils are different sizes.

BART

I got your tooth, Dad!

Bart hands him a tooth. Homer tries to reinsert it in his mouth, but can't.

HOMER

Not mine. (TOSSES IT AWAY)

MARGE

Thank you, Moe. I know you gave up
your dreams for Homer.

MOE

What do dreams matter? I was able to
stick up for a pal.

He pulls a lawn-mower-style cord and restarts the fan.
With a **WHIRRING NOISE**, he begins lifting off the ground.

MOE (CONT'D)

So long, Springfield...

HOMER

Where are you going?

MOE

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

Oh, nowheres in particular. I just
need some time to think.

He flies off into the night sky.

STIRRING, EMOTIONAL MUSIC SWELLS

As the stars twinkle over the Springfield skyline, we linger a moment on the hopeful, upturned faces of the kids, Marge, and Homer. They wave goodbye to Moe as he disappears over the horizon pursued by the Fan Man, who runs after him, **YELLING** and shaking his fist.

FAN MAN

(INDISTINGUISHABLE CURSES)

FADE OUT:

THE END**UNDER THE CLOSING CREDITS**

We see stills of Moe, in his fan device, doing good deeds throughout the world: lifting FLOOD VICTIMS to safety in Bangladesh, rescuing a PITH-HELMETED EXPLORER from quicksand in Indonesia, fighting a forest fire in Oregon, and dropping CARE packages to VILLAGERS in East Africa.